Centenarian Tells of Visit To Glenn By Coxey's Army

Clark, Dorothy Tri. Trib-Star 1-5-69

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Democrat Grover Cleveland was hardly in the White House for his second term after defeating Republican Benjamin Harrison when the country found itself in the grip of the panic of 1893—probably the worst it had yet suffered.

Business firms crashed, banks failed, factories shut down, mortgages were foreclosed. Thousands of unemployed walked the streets looking for jobs that did not exist. City soup kitchens served long lines of hungry people.

The People's Party, commonly known as "Populists," believed the panic resulted from a scarcity of currency. Business leaders thought just the opposite. They blamed the panic on the large government purchases of silver which were draining the Treasury's gold reserves. Cleveland's called a special session of Congress to repeal the Sherman Silver Act. His action convinced the silverites that he was a tool of Wall Street. More loudly than ever they asked for free coinage of silver.

Dorothy Clark

The government took no further action to cure the depression. Cleveland, like other conservative men of his day, thought the storm had to blow itself out. For two years conditions grew worse. Farm prices fell still lower and there were still more wage cuts and unemployment.

Jacob S. Coxey, a well-to-do reformer, thought of a plan to publicize the needs of the jobless. In 1894 he led a few hundred unemployed men to Washington to ask Congress to create jobs by building roads and other public works. When he tried to make a speech on the Capitol steps, Coxey was arrested and his followers driven away.

Coxey Protested

In a written protest Coxey said that persons seeking favors for corporations were welcome in the committee rooms of Congress, while the way had been barred to him and the needy unemployed. Unfortunately for the unemployed, most people outside the wage-earning group thought the men of "Coxey's Army" were vagabonds deserving no sympathy. The march resulted only in new bitterness among the jobless.

Miss Gertrude Hunt and her one-hundred-year-old sister Mrs. Loulie Gillespie who live at the Fairbanks home, told me about a local incident connected with Coxey's Army. It seems the Scott Burgan family had built a store building with a dance floor on the second floor next to their home on the south side of the National Road where the viaduct crosses near the Glenn Orphan's Home. This was a flag stop on the railroad.

A Clever Ruse

One morning very early the Burgan family heard men talking in front of the store. Recognizing them as hoboes, members of Coxey's Army, Mrs. Burgan made coffee in the stove boiler for the men and fed them crackers from the store while her husband bought a train ticket so the train would be compelled to stop. When the train arrived, all the men boarded it and were on their way to Washington, D.C. This was considered a very clever ruse by all involved to get undesirables out of the Lost Creek Township neighborhood.

Winfield Scott Burgan was born in Lost Creek Twp. in 1850, son of James and Elizabeth (Cochran) Burgan. James Burgan was born in Pennsylvania in 1812 and came to Vigo County in 1839. He farmed until 1878 when he moved to Terre Haute and went into the livestock business until his death in 1881. His wife died two years later.

Winfield Scott Burgan was married in 1876 to Miss Ella Persons, daughter of Alex and Elizabeth (Haines) Persons. According to local histories he graduated from Terre Haute Commercial College in 1873, farmed and sold livestock until 1884, when he started a strip coal mine operation, and built his store and dwelling house in 1887. The post office was named Glenn, and the railroad station Glendale. Thomas H. Varley was the postmaster and ticket agent.

An uncle of the Hunt sisters, Levi Dickerson, one of the Vigo County commissioners when the present court house was dedicated, bought the Burgan house, and their father John D. Hunt bought the property from Dickerson. They remember when the first children were brought out to the Glenn Home after it was built in 1902. Lo uhelped make the bed comforts for these first children.

Mrs. Gillespie attended the first burial at Highland Lawn Cemetery. The deceased was Samantha Rogers McPherson (Mrs. Louis) and the grave digger was Bill Gray who lived about where the clock is now on Hulman property east on U.S. 41. From the vantage point of one hundred years Mrs. Gillespie enjoyed remembering local happenings.

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AP Newsfeatures

Dorothy Clark T.H. TRIB-STAR

Paper Printed in 1840 Tells of Whig Campaign

7-26-70

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Back in 1840, there was published in Springfield, Ill., a very small newspaper, "Old Hickory." On the masthead of each four-page edition was an engraving of Andrew Jackson posed before a draped American Flag, and the words: "I take the responsibility."

Printed by Walters & Weber and edited by "Several Democratic Citizens," this little paper cost 25 cents per copy "from the of June 15 until Nov. 1," and was obviously only printed for the presidential election campaign.

If my readers will recall their history lessons, they will remember that 1840 was the year Jackson and other Democratic leaders backed Van Buren for re-election and put up a strong fight in behalf of the party. Most unjustly, however, Van Buren was blamed for the hard times which prevailed throughout his term. His peace-loving foreign policy also cost him popularity with some groups of voters. In addition, Whig newspapers constantly pictured him as a wealthy man with snobbish habits. For example, he was said to eat with gold spoons, dress himself before costly French mirrors and put cologne on his whiskers.

The manager of the Whig party looked around for a candidate who would please the common people. They turned aside from Henry Clay, the founder of the party. They preferred someone whose views were less well known, believing that such a candidate would satisfy more groups of voters. Whig leaders wanted a Westerner in order to attract the farm vote. A military hero, they knew, always appeals to the voters. In Gen. William Henry Harrison of Ohio they found just the candidate they wanted. His political opinions were hazy, and for this reason he would not offend any important group of voters.

Dorothy Clark

Harison had beaten the Indians at Tippecanoe in 1811 and had served with honor in the War of 1812. To catch Southern votes, the Whigs nominated John Tyler of Virginia for Vice President. Tyler was a states'-rights man, an anti-bank man, and a low-tariff man. His only bond with the Whigs was his hatred for Jackson. This fact did not worry the Whig leaders. The vice presidency was not a position of power. They had no idea Tyler would ever become President.

Nicholas Biddle, who thought a Whig victory would mean recharter of the Bank of the United States, advised the Whig managers: "Let him (Harrison) say not one single word about his principles or his creed — let him say nothing ING — promise nothing. Let no committee, no convention, no town meeting ever extract from him a single word about what he thinks now or will do hereafter." This advice was followed. The Whig leaders did not prepare a party platform. Catch phrases such as "Tippecanoe and Tyler too," "Harrison, two dollars a day, and roast beef," and "Van, Van, is a used-up man" were more useful than a platform.

Clay's friends were greatly disappointed that he had not been nominated. One of them said sneeringly that old General Harrison, if given a pension and a barrel of hard cider, would be content to retire to a log cabin. A Democratic newspaper dubbed Harrison the "log-cabin candidate." The Whigs thereupon turned the tables on the Democrats. They boasted that their candidate was a man of the people and they pretended that he lived in a log cabin. (Actually Harrison came from a well-to-do family and was a man of considerable means, while Van Buren had been born poor.)

At every political meeting the Whigs displayed a log cabin, a jug of cider, and a coonskin cap to show their candidate's love of the simple life. They treated those who came to the meetings from barrels of hard cider. "Oh, know ye the farmer of Tippecanoe?" sang the crowds.

"Let Van from his coolers
of silver drink wine,
And lounge on his cushioned settee.
Our man on his buckeye
bench can recline,
Content with hard cider is
he.
The iron-armed soldier, the
true hearted soldier,
the gallant old soldier of
Tippecanoe!"

The Whigs put on the jolliest election campaign America has ever had. "Tippecanoe and Tyler too" won by a huge majority. The Whigs also gained control of Congress. The people seemed to forget that the Whig party was supported by the rich and well-born, the Eastern "money power" which they hated. Their old leader, Jackson, had done what he could to help Van Buren. He felt that Van Buren's defeat was the defeat of Jacksonianism.

Most of the space in this tattered little newspaper, printed 130 years ago, was taken up with an official document of government expenditures for the previous fifteen years (1824-1839). According to the editors, "This document is a clincher on the Whigs, who are circulating the vilest falsehoods concerning the extravagance of the Van Buren administration. We hope every Democrat will preserve this paper to refute the unfounded statements of the Federal Abolition Party."

The new Liberty party, dedicated to the abolition of slavery, appeared in 1840, but obtained only 7,000 popular votes. It grew rapidly and eventually split the Whig party into fragments.

Just one month after his inauguration, President Harrison died, and for the first time in our history a Vice President stepped into the vacancy.

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Described by his enemies as a Democrat in Whig's clothing, President Tyler rejected most Whig policies and pointed out the great weakness of a party whose unity was based on opposition rather than agreement on basic principles.

So goes politics and politicians, and isn't it amazing how often history repeats itself when people will not learn from past mistakes?

X T.H Commun... File Clark, Dorothy

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City Charter of 1867 Gave Council Power

History (T.H.) 1800 -

Ts MAR 1 1 1973

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

When Terre Haute was incorporated as a city and a new city charter was approved on March 14, 1867, the Common Council had their job cut out for them.

They had the power to regulate or prohibit the use of hand organs, or instruments of any annoying character, or other music of itinerant performers, in the streets, lanes, alleys, or public places of the city.

They decided to fill up or drain any lot or parcel of ground within the city, or within two miles thereof, whenever water became stagnant and noxious.

They prevented or regulated the use of firearms, fireworks, or other things tending to endanger persons or property. This probably helped cut down on the Southerners' use of fireworks at Christmas time.

Even though one of the city fathers operated a tallow and soap factory on the near north side, the Council decided to prohibit the erection of tallow chandleries, soap factories and other noxious trades. Their jurisdiction was within two miles in every direction from the city limts.

Cemeteries could now be established only with approval of the Council either within or without the city limits, and the sanctity of the dead was protected by law. Smallpox was an ever present threat in those days, and quarantine regulations were established. Occupants of filthy houses were ordered to clean up, even the adjacent streets and alleys. Garbage was not allowed to be dumped within the city. They even decided to construct and establish works for furnishing the city with wholesome water and drainage. Sewers, drains and cisterns were much in the news in the early seventies, along with fire protection, and the problems of the high water mark and a sea wall along the river with its many wharves, docks, piers, basins and landing places.

DOROTHY J. CLARK

Over a century later, it is interesting to note that in 1867 the city of Terre Haute was "bound to furnish a good and sufficient deed, in fee simple, to the Board of Trustees of the Normal School (now Indiana State University) for the land donated. Also that said city shall further undertake and enter into an agreement to forever maintain and keep up, one half of the necessary repairs incident to keeping in order the building or buildings and the ground of the same, which said obligation or agreement shall be filed with the Auditor of the State."

As early as 1864 there was a city ordinance restraining dogs from running at large in the city. Dogs were protected from ill treatment, cruelty and dog-fighting was strictly prohibited. It was against city ordinance to poison dogs by meat or any other substance.

Vicious dogs were not allowed to run loose in the daytime. Barking and howling dogs were unlawful day or night if they disturbed the neighborhood.

Because of the ever present danger of hydrophobia (rabies), dogs that run loose were supposed to be muzzled and after Sept. 1, 1864, any unmuzzled dog could be killed by police or any citizen if he was found running at large. The police received 25 cents for every dog they killed!

The 1869 Acts provided for the education of Negro children in Indiana. Property of all persons without regard to race or color were to be taxed for support of the common schools. All children were to be enumerated, but Negro children were to be enumerated in a separate district. They were to be organized into separate

(over)

schools by trustees, but if there were no separate schools, then they were allowed to attend public schools with white children. Busing children to school was not to become an issue until a century later.

There was even a penalty for upbraiding or insulting a teacher in the presence of the school by any parent or guardian. The fine was $25 in those days. School terms were set at sixty days; school month at twenty days; and the school week at five days. The 1865 Acts stated that "the Bible shall not be excluded from the public schools of the state."

The Common Council had the responsibility to preserve peace and good order, prevent vice and immorality, and quell riots and disorderly assemblages. They were supposed to suppress gaming and gaming houses, prohibit and destroy gaming devices, and houses of ill fame.

Vagrants, mendicants, street beggars, common prostitutes and their associates were supposed to be restrained and punished. Even the ringing of bells, the crying of goods, along with hawking and peddling, were to be regulated.

Along with the markets, slaughter houses, powder magazines, inns, taverns, shops, theatrical and other public shows, even the time and place of bathing in the river or other public waters was regulated.

The Council had the job of regulating all pool tables, bowling alleys, slot machines and gaming devices along with any kind of places for sports and games. With all this suppression and regulation, it's difficult to see how Terre Haute ever got the name "Sin City!"

In September, 1875, the building known as the 9th Street Market House at Ninth and Cherry streets was used as the city work-house, a part of the city jail, to confine only male persons, for violations of ordinances.

If the fine was not paid, the Mayor could commit the guilty to this work-house for thirty days where by manual labor in the work-house or in the streets or on public works of the city, the defendant earned 75 cents per day towards paying off the judgment and court costs. They were worked not less than six nor more than ten hours per day according to the season of the year. If there were no other duties, they worked at breaking stone. Vagrants kept over night at the work-house worked at least six hours for this charity. The food was described as "suitable" and the bedding was "inspected" at least three times a week for vermin! The station-keeper was on duty 24 hours round the clock.

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Ts APR 27 1980

Politics of yore had its good moments –

Community Affairs File

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

There was nothing that could be described as an organized political party in Indiana until 1824. That year the friends of Andrew Jackson met in county conventions and voted to send delegates to a meeting in Salem on September 16. Four years later a Jackson state convention was held there. These were probably the first state political conventions held in Indiana.

However, before this date, we find notices in the old newspapers as early as 18143 in Vincennes, and 1817 in Madison, that men were announcing their intentions to stand for election as delegates to the state legislature.

One such notice reads very much like more recent ones. "An American — A child of your State—and a friend of your rights, now offers his services to represent you in the Legislature. His qualifications are so well known they need no comment. His principles, both religious and political, have been tested and passed the rubicon. Such an one now solicits your suffrages."

Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

Stump Speaking

In 1826 stump speaking was coming into fashion. People would come by the thousands to hear the candidates speak. At one such meeting the well known Hon. John Test was speaking and for the first time choosing the subject of railroads. He avowed himself in favor of them, and then rising to the top of his voice, said, "I tell you, fellow-citizens, that in England they run cars 30 miles an hour, and they will yet be run at a higher speed in America."

This was enough. The crowd set up a loud laugh at the expense of the Judge. An old fellow bawled out, "You're crazy, or do you think we are all fools; a man could not live a moment at that speed." The Judge had ruined his prospects by telling such an improbable story at that time.

On another occasion the judge was speaking in favor of the tariff in the highest terms. The people knew little about it, but what they had heard was decidedly against it. Few knew the meaning of the word, and fewer what it was like. One old fellow said he had never seen one, but he believed "it was hard on sheep." So much for stump speaking.

Jackson Carried State

In 1828 Andrew Jackson carried Indiana by over 5,000 votes. Four years later his victory was even greater. In 1836 the opponents of Jackson, by this time called Whigs, had as their candidate the hero of Tippecanoe, William Henry Harrison. The tables turned. Harrison carried Indiana, but, of course, failed to win the presidency Four years later it was a different story.

The national campaign of 1840 is probably unique in American political history. It was both colorful and merry, bitter and grim. Its lighter side was marked by the Tippecanoe clubs, cabin raisings, free barbecues, hard cider, parades, gala balls and catchy songs. The greatest rally of all was the gathering at the Tippecanoe Battleground on May 29. In the election, Indiana and the nation went for Harrison.

Exciting Times Recalled

There were some exciting times over politics in Vigo County in the 1840s judging from the local newspapers of the time. The Wabash Courier of May 30, 1842, relates: "Some persons on Monday night last destroyed a fine large tent standing on the courthouse yard, designed as a covering for the Terre Haute Band at the Tippecanoe celebration. The tent was pitched for the night, with two others, and in the morning was found burned to ashes...the unrighteous deed was perpetrated about midnight.

The American flag waving at the head of the staff on the prairie was

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also stolen, carried away or destroyed, probably by the same gang of political fanatics. The friends of Harrison were necessarily excited at the outrage, but as yet no certain clue has been found as to the guilty.

"The Harrison boys can stand a few hard knocks from their opponents, in a political way, but when they find their tents assailed, and the stars and stripes desecrated, it would not be good for the vandals who committed the outrage to be too daring. Gen. Harrison and his brave soldiers slept many a cold night on the ground in the Wabash campaign, without a tent to protect them from the winds, and his or their friends can get along one night without the tent thus destroyed..."

Historically Speaking
By Dorothy Clark
Ts NOV 2 1980

Political campaigns and campaigners of the past recalled

President John F. Kennedy once said: "The political world is stimulating. It's the most interesting thing you can do. It beats following the dollar. It allows the full use of your powers. First, there is the great chess game — the battle, the competition. There's the strategy and which pieces you move, and all that. And then in government you can do something about what you think."

Winston Churchill was once asked the qualification for a politician. Without hesitation, he answered: "It is the ability to foretell what will happen tomorrow, next month, next year — and to explain afterwards why it did not happen."

Whether it's the rooster versus the eagle, or the donkey versus the elephant, it's a known fact that electioneering in America has developed into a kind of national sport. The presidential campaign of 1840 set the pace for all subsequent elections.

The party then calling itself Whig had an excellent candidate General William Henry Harrison of 1812 fame, but no platform. Fortune gave them somsthing much better, a symbol on which they rode to victory — the log cabin (which really had not much significance with the wealthy background of Harrison and his wife).

Being nominated by majority vote (that is by the loudest clamor) was inaugurated in the 1860 election which brought Abraham Lincoln to power. Ths emotional turn of American politics lies deep in the origin of the American nation itself. Americans love a rough and tumble campaign.

There were exciting times in Vigo County politics in the 1840s. As the steamboat Fox passed up the Wabash River with a number of delegates to the convention, a petticoat was discovered suspended to a pole on the west bank of the river, three miles above Terre Haute. It was done to insult the delegates, and, what was worse, to perpetuate a slander on the military fame of the gallant Harrison.

On being discovered the boat was rounded to, and a gentleman sent on shore to cut down the emblem of Van Burenism. The "loco" made an attempt at defense, but the Harrison man wrested his weapon from him, threw it in the river, and cut down the lying banner.

In 1876 political excitement in Indiana was at white heat in the race for governor. James D. Williams, better known as "Blue Jeans" Williams, was the Democrat candidate, while the Republican was Benjamin Harrison, grandson of W.H. Harrison. Williams, a farmer from Knox County, was elected and continued to wear homespun even while serving as a member of Congress.

Campaign at close

As the 1876 campaign drew to a close (even as this 1980 campaign draws to its close) both parties extended themselves to the limit to win. The Republicans declared it a matter of state pride to elect Harrison. They appealed to the Irish, the Negro, the Independent, the business man, the "regular" Republican, and the young man to save the state from further Democratic mismanagement.

The Democrats appealed to the "regular" Democrats, the Independents, the reformers, the day laborers, and the honest Republican farmers and mechanics, "in the name of liberty to lay aside their love of party and unite in electing the faithful old farmer statesman to the office of governor."

The state election, Oct. 10, 1876, resulted in a majority of slightly over 5,000 for Williams. The Democrats were highly elated...declared that "Williams will not make a glittering ruler, but he will prove a golden one, enriching the people of the state by his economy and honesty and wise and prudent counsel."

Why don't people vote on election day? Their reasons are many for staying home. Some don't think elections make any difference, and some believe their personal vote doesn't mean much. Some don't know much about the candidates or the offices they're seeking. A growing number

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Many people just don't want to be bothered, and some don't believe in majority rule.

Women are the ones most neglectful of their right to vote. In the early days, the men had all the fun of the election as well as the right to vote. Since women gained the right to vote, they've only swayed one election — in 1952 when the women elected Eisenhower.

Although the issues have changed over the years, the important fact remains that it is a privilege and a duty of every citizen to vote on each election day. Everyone get to the polls and vote!

think all public officials are crooks

Clark, Dorothy

In 1909, 57 voters 'lived' in tiny room with no bed

NOV 07 1982

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Politics was rearing its ugly head in 1909 when newspapers called a spade a spade, and the devil take the hindmost.

It seems "Hinky Dink" Tierney was the proprietor of the famous hostelry where 57 names were given as legal voters from a house of one room without a bed. His competitors were the "Red Onion" and "Buster" Clark, in the local Tenderloin section of Terre Haute.

Thatcher Parker, the leading candidate for postmaster of Terre Haute, was described as an irregular Republican. Knicknamed "Spring Creek," he was wooing the Tenderloin for these 57 voters and any others he could influence.

The Republican's majority of 3,712 the previous fall was turned into a Democratic plurality of 412 because of "Thatch's" alleged working against Republican candidates.

Democrats interested in the election of Louis Gerhardt for mayor began their task by working to naturalize foreigners.

Donn Roberts, one of the managers of the Gerhardt campaign, came up with the idea to get foreigners to declare their intention to become American citizens so they could vote. However, a foreigner cannot become an American citizen until he has been in this country for five years.

Anyway, traffic in the county clerk's office became quite heavy when seven foreigners came in to take out first papers.

John Floiser swore that he was 45 years old, that he was born in Austria-Hungary, that he came to America from Tortlow, Hungary, and arrived in New York on Oct. 1, 1889. He gave his address as Terre Haute, Ind., but not what precinct or ward he would be voting in.

Peter Drogan swore that he was 27, that he came from Segenor, Hungary, and arrived in New York Aug. 8, 1901. His address was only Terre Haute.

William Jaeger, a German and a brewer by trade, was escorted by politician George Erhenhardt. Jaeger said he was 23, born in Frankfort, Prussia, and came to America from Hamburg, Germany, landing in New York Oct. 12, 1906. He lived at 50 S. 10¼ St.

George Tesculo, 22, said he was born in Nun Bun, Hungary, arrived in New York April 16, 1907, and lived at 25th and Locust streets.

John Domnaru, 26, said he was born in Ogna Sibiu, Hungary, arrived in New York March 24, 1906. He lived at 25th Street and Third Avenue.

Cornel Boerin, 24, said he was a native of Cociuloto, Hungary, arrived in New York Sept. 28, 1908, and also lived at 25th Street and Third Avenue.

Stories have been told for years about some precinct workers voting names from Woodlawn Cemetery. Ballot boxes were stuffed, and voting frauds were exposed and those responsible served time in the state and local pokeys. Whether the old paper ballots were used, or the newer punch cards, it's the people of the local polls who are responsible for legal voting.

Today nine out of 10 adults are eligible to vote, an almost complete reversal of the situation in 1790 when only one out of 10 could vote.

Local politics began to be stormy at an early date when members of one of the early grand juries in the 1820s assumed the function of a nominating convention and recommended candidates. They went on record as choosing James Farrington to represent Vigo County in the general assembly. They chose T. H. Blake to represent the first congressional district in the 19th Congress.

There were exciting times over politics in the 1840s when the "Tippecanoe and Tyler too" campaign brought out all the rowdies. To be nominated by majority vote, that is by the loudest clamor, was begun in the election of 1860 which brought Abraham Lincoln to power.

Americans have remained true to rough-and-tumble politics.

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Local officials were having their problems back in 1909. First of all, the bridge over the Wabash River needed painting. Some of the under parts of the 5-year-old structure were rusted already.

It seems horse manure from the flooring of the bridge sifted through and lodged in the elbows and other catch-alls of this part of the bridge. When it rained, the water seeped through and rusted that iron work badly.

A double coating of paint was ordered, and 28 iron strips, four on each pier of the bridge, were ordered to be concreted to preserve them from rust. The contract price was $1,448.

Louis P. Seeburger was president of the Vigo County Commissioners in 1909. George Edmunds was bridge inspector, and the public was looking over his shoulder.

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City officials also had their problems that year. The dilemma concerning whether to narrow North 13th Street between Wabash Avenue and the Vandalia Railroad from 65 feet to 60 feet was in and out of the courts.

Property owners who had not put up buildings objected to the narrowing because they said a double streetcar track had no business on a 60-foot street. To save the city from paying $12,800 to property owners, the city was trying to have the suit dismissed.

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Clark, Dorothy — History Article
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One man's vote makes a difference

T S NOV 6 1983

Historically speaking

By Dorothy J. Clark

It took a lot of research to ferret out the case of Henry Shoemaker, a farmhand of DeKalb County, Ind., whose vote in the election of August, 1842, proved to be a very important one.

Reapportionment had given the adjoining counties of DeKalb and Steuben a single representative to the Indiana House of Representatives. The two candidates were Enos Beall, a Whig, and Madison Marsh, a Democrat.

Remembering that he had met Marsh during the campaign and had promised to vote for him, Henry Shoemaker saddled up his horse and rode 12 miles to Kendallville. He arrived at the polling place late in the afternoon, and the inspector handed him a sheet of tickets, all containing the name of Enos Beall for Representative.

Shoemaker asked for another ballot, and the inspector handed him a sheet of tickets with the name of Madison Marsh. Next Henry asked the inspector if he had scissors or a knife to cut them with, and was handed a penknife.

Since he did not wish to vote the straight party ticket of either Whigs or Democrats, Shoemaker literally split his ticket. With voting officials looking on, he cut out the name of Marsh from one ballot along with others he wanted, then cut other names from the second sheet. He handed the clippings to the inspector — four pieces of paper, three small sheets inside a larger one. The inspector accepted them and put them in the ballot box.

Shoemaker hung around the voting place for an hour or more, but no one said anything about his unusual ballot, so he went home. When the tabulation began, however, the voting officials threw out Shoemaker's vote.

That was Monday, and on the next Saturday the sheriffs of the two counties met at the Steuben County Court House to compare the certificates for the election for representative. The final results were 360 votes for Marsh; 360 votes for Beall; a tie.

By "casting lots" the sheriffs chose Beall as the winner. Immediately Marsh appealed to the Committee on Election which held extensive hearings on the matter.

It was found that in Smithfield township, only 16 votes were cast for representative, all of them for either Marsh or Beall; that there was only one person named Henry Shoemaker in the township and he was a qualified voter; that he had voted "openly and with no appearance of concealment or subterfuge" and had not tried to vote twice, and that the inspector had accepted Shoemaker's ballot and had put it in the box. The committee noted that it was the inspector's knife which was used in the surgery, and "we have the uncontradicted oath of Henry Shoemaker that he did intend to vote for Marsh for the office of Representative."

"In summing up the whole matter, your committee finds that Madison Marsh has received a majority of the legal votes, if they had all been counted, and the voice of the ballot box had been properly regarded, and that he is therefore entitled to the contested seat." The Indiana House agreed, and Marsh —a Democrat — took his seat in the state legislature.

Two years later there was another election — this time for the U.S. Senate seat from Indiana. Prior to the 17th Amendment, U.S. Senators were chosen by state legislatures. Candidates in 1842-43 were Oliver H. Smith, Whig senator up for re-election, and the Democrat candidate, Gen. Tilghman A. Howard. Both were well-known, competent men, but only one would get the nod.

On the first ballot of the joined Indiana House and Senate, neither got a majority: Howard 74, Smith 72, and Edward A. Hannegan, a darkhorse, got three. Marsh voted for his fellow Democrat, Howard.

On the next ballot, Smith received 75 votes, one shy of the 76 needed for a majority. If Henry Shoemaker's vote had been rejected in 1840 and neither Beall nor Marsh had been declared the winner, Smith's 75 votes would have been a majority and he would have returned to the Senate.

By the time a fifth ballot was taken, the legislators were growing restless. There was still no majority, so they knocked off for lunch. It soon became clear that a lot of politicking had taken place during lunch, for when balloting resumed Smith got 69 votes on the sixth ballot, Howard got one vote, Joseph G. Marshall got four, and Edward A. Hannegan got 76, making him the new senator from Indiana. This winning vote was supplied by Madison Marsh.

Four years later, in 1846, the U.S. Senate was bitterly divided over whether to declare war on Mexico. A caucus of Democratic senators, the majority in the Senate, took a vote but it was a tie. Then it was determined that Edward A. Hannegan of Indiana was not present. He was sent for and promptly voted "aye" for the war. It broke the tie, fixed the Democrat's position and war was declared.

That is how Henry Shoemaker is best remembered in Indiana, however, there is more to the tale. The war with Mexico was touched off by the U.S. annexation of Texas one year earlier when John Tyler was president. He had taken office upon the death of William Henry Harrison and that left the vice presidency empty.

The move to annex Texas had failed as a treaty, which needed a two-thirds vote in the Senate, so Tyler tried again — this time as a simple resolution which needed only a majority. It passed, 27 to 25.

A one-vote change by a supporter of annexation would have resulted in a 26-26 tie and, there being no vice president to break the deadlock, annexation would have failed and Texas would have remained independent.

For the record, Indiana Senator Albert White voted against annexation. Senator Hannegan voted for it. Henry Shoemaker's one vote was an important one in the ensuing chain of events.

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Clark, Dorothy

Making of a market place

1839 ordinance put shopkeepers in business

SEP 03 1989

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

As one drives along South Fourth Street, or along Walnut Street, it's difficult to imagine the town's first market house and market place on the northwest corner stretching along Walnut west to the alley, and along Fourth north about halfway to Ohio. What a busy place this must have been about daylight on market days!

In 1839, an ordinance was passed by the Town Council stating that "from and after the 20th day of May next, lots numbered 63 and 64 on the original plat of Terre Haute, with the buildings and improvements thereon, shall be the established market place for said town."

This ordinance provided for the appointment of some suitable person as market master who would furnish a bond of $500 ito insure that he would turn over all receipts from the market to the Town Treasurer. He would keep the place clean, preserve order, remove all nuisances, and have police powers to boot out loiterers, etc.

He was ordered to procure at the expense of the town one pair of large and one pair of small scales, together with the necessary weights for avoirdupois; also, one-half bushel, one peck, one-half peck, and also one gallon, one quart, and one pint measures, of the standard measures to keep the stall renters legal.

The market master had to advertise and then conduct a public auction of the several stalls and side benches available. Spaces were leased on a yearly basis. Articles to be sold were offered from daylight to 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. These were very strict rules and violators were fined $10 if they tried to sell before or after the times.

Local shopkeepers were fined $15 if they were found guilty of selling any of their store goods in the market. This was the fine if they were caught selling damaged, spoiled or unwholesome provisions. Cheating on weights was asking for a $5 fine.

The selling of meat was a special problem at the market. Fresh meat could only be sold at an inside stall, and then only by the Quarter (single hams excepted). No one was allowed to slaughter or dress any animal within the market place or keep any garbage in or near his stall.

It was the duty of each butcher to wash, scour and properly cleanse the benches and side benches and place the stall benches under the several stalls every market day. Failure was a $3 fine.

It was a $1 fine for sitting, standing upon, etc., any stalls, benches, blocks or side benches at any time, or to congregate or be lounging in or about the place, except for the purpose of attending the market during its proper hours.

Those who leased a stall were responsible to supply the stall with produce, and if they failed to do so for three successive weeks, the stall reverted to the town again and was resold by the market master.

People were prohibited from fastening their horse or team to the posts, railings, or other fixtures of the market house. The ordinance made it unlawful for any wagon, cart or sled loaded with hay, straw, wood or coal to stand at or within the market place during market hours under a penalty of $5.

On Jan. 1, 1840, the time for holding market was changed to 40 minutes before sunrise until an hour and a half after sunrise. The women must have had to rise early to do their food shopping 149 years ago. Although some women hop in the family car and pick up groceries at the nearest supermarket at all hours of day and night.

Conditions at the town's market must have triggered the realization that something was going to have to be done about the citizens' health. The Common Council established a board of health made of five persons to be appointed by the council, whose duty it was to have a general supervision of the town in all matters relating to its health.

They were given authority to enter all shops, pork houses, slaughter houses, stables, outhouses and grounds to direct the owners to cleanse, purify and to remove and abate all nuisances or causes of disease. This first health board was instructed to report to the council from time to time.

Owners of dead animals were required to remove them and bury them outside the town limits. Throwing them into the Wabash River was forbidden. Slaughter houses were strictly policed by those early town fathers.

In the past 150 years, the same health problems exist, but on a much larger scale — the population of Terre Haute has inevitably grown to inflate the health problems. Food vendors still present problems of cleanliness at our fairs, festivals, flea markets, and all the other "buyer beware" booths.

In those early days, paper was precious, and buyers brought their own baskets to carry meat, butter, etc.; home in crocks or pans. Newspapers were so precious that they were passed on to be read again and again, and literally worn out with use. String bags or anything that could be washed was used to carry home damp items. Carrying honey in its comb must have been a messy item to transport.

Readers should try to imagine how they would survive without waxed paper, plastic wrap, Styrofoam containers, paper plates and cups, aluminum wrap, sandwich bags, the list goes on and on. Pity the poor market master of 1840.

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Clark, Dorothy

Post-Civil War politics

Republicans captured mayor's office in 1865

T s SEP 2 4 1989

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
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During the Civil War and immediately thereafter the Republican party held undisputed sway in this city. In 1865, the last year of that war, the candidates for mayor were Albert Lange, Republican — or as it was then called on the printed ticket, Union — and Colonel Cookerly was the Democrat.

These were the representatives of the political coloring of city politics in the May election that year, and the division of parties, because these two men were the leaders of their respective parties.

After the election, the vote stood 900 for Lange and 500 for Cookerly. There were five wards in the city. The Democratic First Ward contained all that part of the city between Ohio and Mulberry streets, from the Wabash River to the eastern limits of the city.

Cookerly was the "unterrified," however, and was again a candidate at the next election in 1867 for mayor. The newspapers then were the Express and the Journal, and each was outspoken through their editors, Gen. Charles Cruft and Perry Westfall for the former, and James B. Edmund for the latter.

The results of the mayor's election in 1867 was a big surprise all around. Cookerly received 1,279 votes, while Major D. A. Conover received 1,027. But it was not a Waterloo for the whole Republican ticket.

In May 1867, Minshall introduced an ordinance at the city council meeting with an emergency clause creating a board of police of three members and the mayor, and providing for the election by the board of a police chief. This board was abolished by the substitution of police commissioners in January 1885. Allen Alloway, who was beaten for city marshal, was the first chief of police in the city.

The Republicans held their mass convention to send delegates to the state convention on Feb. 6, 1868. Col. R. W. Thompson introduced the resolution calling for the northern states not to extend suffrage to the Negroes. He believed it was unwise for Indiana to agitate.

A Grant Club was organized at the local courthouse Feb. 15, 1868, and was named the Central Grant Club. P. B. O'Reilly and Albert Lange were the speakers for the organizing meeting. Martial music was heard from outside, and the G.A.R. were sighted marching up Third Street, halting in front of the building to give three cheers for Grant.

Col. McLean was elected president of this club which decided to build a "wigwam," a popular electioneering device of that period.

In 1868 the old courthouse was abandoned by the courts and was fixed up as a temporary public meeting place. The Democrats held their June convention there that year.

The campaign in Vigo County in 1868 was a memorable one, noisy and turbulent. The party newspapers were "hot boxes to every wheel." To read the Republican papers one was led to believe that the Democrats were all wildly hurrahing for Jeff Davis, while the other side denounced their opponents as villains of deepest dye.

Both parties held their big rallies on the eve of the long campaign, Republicans one day at the fair grounds, and Democrats the next day, Oct. 11, at Early's Grove.

Politics became the order of the day in 1872 when Grant ran against Greeley. The Republicans put up a wigwam, and the Democrats a temple at the northeast corner of Eighth and Ohio streets on Dr. Ezra Read's vacant lot. The hottest campaign ever seen in Terre Haute was opened here.

White Greeley plug hats were common head gear. Some 1,700 men marched in the torchlight procession to Early's Grove one night to hear the speechmaking.

Bradsby's "History of Vigo County, Ind.," published in 1891, described local politicians as "men who go into a campaign with their coats off and sleeves rolled to the tops of their shoulders; men who never get tired, and who, it would seem, never sleep until the last vote possible is in the box, and then, whether triumphant or overwhelmed, are coming up smiling the next day, eager for the next contest."

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Orderly ordinances

Clark, Dorothy

City laws designed to maintain health, safety

IS OCT 08 1989

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

The Common Council of Terre Haute has exerted its powers in all directions over the years. Every three months the Council members of each Ward were required to act as fire warden and examine all houses, out-houses, lots and yards within each Ward. They were to put all complaints in writing and see they were corrected.

The Ordinance of 1855 stated exactly how hearths could be constructed, how stoves were set up, that candles were forbidden to be used in stables, that driveways must be cleared, and that no one could boil oil or varnish within 20 feet of any building in the city.

It was unlawful to take water from any of the public cisterns except for purposes of extinguishing fires. A fine of $50 was levied against anyone who might need bath water or for washing laundry.

If hot ashes were found in any wooden vessel or box, another $50 fine was charged. Fires in streets, alleys, or lots in the city were forbidden between daybreak and noon, and only 20 feet away from a building.

In fact, by 1877 it was against the law to erect any wooden building from Ninth Street to the Wabash River and from Mulberry to Walnut streets. People could still build wooden privies and woodsheds not exceeding one story in height. Think about this. Has any reader ever seen a two-story privy?

Bonfires were declared unlawful in August 1868. The previous Fourth of July was a town riot with cannons and other fire-arms discharged, the setting off of rockets, Roman candles, firecrackers, squibs, etc. in downtown Terre Haute. People threw fire balls, fire brands, and other ignited substances, but the ordinance still did not prohibit fireworks on four holidays — July 4, Christmas Day, the 8th of January (the anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans in honor of Andrew Jackson and known as "Jackson Day" or "Old Hickory Day" celebrating the last battle of the War of 1812), and Feb. 22 (Washington's Birthday).

A Board of Health was established for Terre Haute by the Common Council on Feb. 20, 1854. It provided for three commissioners appointed by ballot annually. These men were fully vested with power to establish, publish and enforce all sanitary regulations "best calculated to secure the public from such epidemic, infectious, contagious, malignant or pestitential diseases."

Physicians, keepers of public houses, boarding houses, and officers of steam conveyances (river boats and railroads) were required to report all such cases to the Board.

All inhabitants of the city who had not had smallpox or been vaccinated were required to do so. And all children had to be vaccinated before attending public schools.

This new Board couldn't set up a quarantine. This honor was left with the Council. Fines were set at $50 and costs.

Steamboats, canal boats, stage coaches, etc. were required to report cases of smallpox, spasmodic cholera, or any other disease. The City Marshal and his deputies followed up with inspections, "at all times between sunrise and sunset." They inspected buildings, cellars, all enclosures, vaults, privies, etc., and could order them cleaned.

The Street Commissioner had to remove "filth and impurities" from any street or alley in town. In the 1870s, Terre Haute had all sorts of problems with stagnant water standing on undrained land. Mosquitoes were a real problem.

In 1866 passengers were prohibited from jumping off horse cars of the street railways in town. Rules were set out for the behavior of passengers in railroad depots and protection of travelers was guaranteed.

In 1867 the Common Council approved an ordinance guaranteeing half the cost of repairs to buildings and grounds of the Normal School (now Indiana State University) would be paid by the City.

By 1870 the Common Council ordained that "it shall be unlawful for any person to throw, cast or hurl any pebble, stone or piece of stone, or any brick or piece of brick, or any other substance whatever, into, along or across any street, sidewalk or alley of said city." Any violator, upon conviction before the Mayor, could be fined any sum not exceeding $25. Probably less in an election year and the violator was of voting age.

Tallow chandleries and soap factories became unlawful in Terre Haute in 1870. The Council passed an ordinance making it unlawful for any person or persons to locate or erect such businesses at any location, or in any building within the city limits, or within two miles thereof. However, the Council could grant permission if they saw fit.

Chandleries made candles of tallow. Bar soap and soft soap utilized all sorts of boiling rancid animal fats in their manufacture. If they continued to send off noxious fumes, they were shut down as a health hazard. Violators were fined from $5 to $25 for each offense.

On Feb. 4, 1873, a city ordinance was adopted to change the way Terre Haute citizens would receive their mail and to make the city streets more orderly. The Philadelphia plan of numbering houses was recognized as the only way to set up house delivery of mail and newspapers by the federal government and post office.

Community Affairs File
Community Affairs File

"Clark, Dorothy"

The Honorable Mayors

Here are the men who served the city and when

Historically speaking

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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

When Terre Haute was incorporated as a town in January 1832 by an Act of the General Assembly, it was stipulated it would be governed by a president and trustees. The town was divided into five wards, and one trustee was elected for each ward.

These trustees elected the first municipal officers of the town, who were James B. McCall, president; James T. Moffatt, clerk; Charles G. Taylor, assessor; Samuel Crawford, treasurer; and William Mars, constable and collector.

This system of government continued until 1838 when, by Act of the Legislature, a new charter was granted which provided for the election of a mayor and 10 councilmen. This charter was accepted by a vote of the citizens in March 1838.

In the following May, an election was conducted for mayor and councilmen. Elijah Tillotson was elected the first Mayor of the Town of Terre Haute.

In 1843, the office of mayor was abolished by a special Act of the Legislature, the enforcement of the ordinances was left to the magistrates, and the other duties of the mayor were transferred to the president of the common council.

So many readers and students call me for information about who was mayor in what year that I decided to research the matter and keep a special file on the subject.

Tillotson was mayor until he resigned Aug. 10, 1838. On Sept. 9, Dr. Marcus Hitchcock was elected, only to resign in June 1839. On June 4, 1839, Brittain M. Harrison was elected and served until the office was abolished on Feb. 9, 1843.

Under the new Constitution of the State of Indiana, a general law was enacted in 1852 which provided for the incorporation of cities, authorizing towns having a population of 3,000 inhabitants and upwards to become incorporated. Terre Haute became incorporated under this act, and the first city election was conducted May 30, 1852.

William K. Edwards, legal advisor to Chauncey Rose and a prominent citizen, was chosen the first Mayor of the City of Terre Haute. Of the 752 total votes cast, Edwards received 573, while his opponent, B. M. Harrison, received 179.

Mayor Edwards served until May 7, 1855, when James Hook was elected. He was followed in 1856 by Chambers Y. Patterson who served until 1860 when he resigned to become circuit court judge.

A special election was conducted Nov. 19, 1860, and William H. Stewart was elected to fill the unexpired term. Mayor Stewart held the office until May 9, 1863, when Albert Lange was elected. He was followed in 1867 by Grafton F. Cookerly. His term ended in May 1871.

Alexander Thomas (R) was elected in 1871, and re-elected in 1873. James B. Edmunds (D) became mayor in 1875, but died after serving two months of his second term. Six ex-mayors acted as pallbearers at his funeral. Henry Fairbanks was elected to fill the vacancy in 1877, but he also died in office after serving only nine months. Once source lists Joseph M. Wildy as mayor 1878-79, while another historian states that on May 7, 1878, William K. Edwards was elected to fill the vacancy.

Mayor Benjamin F. Havens (D) served from 1879 to 1881, when James B. Lyne (R) was elected. William H. Armstrong (R) was mayor in 1883-85. Jacob C. Kolsem (D) served from 1885 to 1889 when the office went to Henry M. Griswald. He died after serving less than a year. His successor was James M. Allen.

Next to be elected was Frank C. Danaldson who served until 1892. In that year, Fred A. Ross was elected and served six years. Henry C. Steeg was elected in 1898, and his administration carried the city through the turn of the century.

In 1904, Edwin J. Bidaman was elected. He was impeached and replaced by Frank M. Buckingham in 1905. A former city clerk and controller, he served as mayor until James Lyons was elected in 1908. Louis A. Gerhardt became mayor in 1910.

World War I was beginning in Europe when Donn M. Roberts was elected in 1913. Declared guilty of election fraud, he was sentenced to Leavenworth Federal Prison where he served 3½ years (until 1919). Again later in life while operating a filling station, he was convicted of non-payment of gasoline tax and sent to prison. He was released in 1934 due to ill health and died Aug. 3, 1936.

James M. Gossom, city controller, assumed the office of mayor on Feb. 22, 1915. The United States was in that "war to end all wars" when Charles R. Hunter became mayor in 1918. Four years later, Ora D. Davis was elected in 1922 and re-elected in 1926.

In 1930, Wood Posey was elected and seved five years. It was at this time the state legislature enacted the law to elect mayors only on the odd number years, not at the same time the governor was to be elected.

Samuel Beecher served as mayor from 1936 to 1940. Joseph P. Duffy served from 1940 to 1944, with this country engaged in World War II. Vernon R. McMillan took office in 1944, serving until 1948 when Ralph Tucker was elected and served the longest term of any mayor in Terre Haute's history, 20 years, from 1948 to 1968.

Leland Larrison served as mayor from 1968 to 1972; William Brighton from 1972 to 1980; and P. Pete Chalos took the office in 1980 and was elected in 1987 to another four-year term.

1855 laws papered the state

Assembly bills built bridges, outlawed profanity

Clark, Dorothy

T-S DEC 10 1995

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Reading the printed reports of the early Indiana General Assemblies is probably interesting only to dedicated historians. The one published in 1855 was certainly an eye-opener. The whole session only cost the taxpayers $45,000, but there were so many appropriations that one would need a modern-day calculator to reach a complete total.

Even as today, there were expenses for printing most everything from the book to all the stationery needed by all the men and their offices. They did a lot of binding in 1855 also. Attorneys had to have copies of the new laws, the State Prison cost $10,000, and the Governor's Mansion in the middle of the Circle at Indianapolis had to have many repairs, a new fence all around, outbuildings, stable, carriage house, wood house, due to a recent fire. There was new furniture to buy, wallpaper, etc.

One man was paid $15 for hauling coal and cleaning spittoons for the House. His counterpart in the Senate also was paid. Bills were allowed for over $600 for pitchers, tumblers, ink stands, brooms, buckets, matches and brushes. One man was allowed $2 a day for splitting wood and cleaning the cellar before coal was delivered.

Wagonloads of documents were hauled back and forth. Bills for "sundries" were paid, along with a lot of tinware. A Joseph Rupple was allowed $200 for indexing the Revised Statutes in 1852 in German.

The heirs of William Sill were allowed $3,000 for work, labor and materials for the use of the Wabash & Erie Canal, at the mouth of Wea Creek, Tippecanoe County.

In 1855 an Act providing for the erection and repair of bridges according to opinions of county commissioners was enacted. Every detail was worked out by the General Assembly concerning bridges in Indiana, including toll charges, signs on both ends of bridges stating: "one dollar fine for riding or driving on this bridge faster than a walk." The fine for doing so was $1.

All persons going to or returning from any election, place of religious worship, or attending a funeral, were exempt from paying the toll.

Section 22 of the 1852 Act for incorporating towns was amended in 1855. Towns were to organize fire companies; declare what constituted a nuisance; restrain animals running at large; prohibit gambling, houses of ill fame; regulate auctions, traveling peddlers and public exhibitions; and establish and regulate markets and slaughter houses.

The new Act provided for laying out, opening, grading and improving streets, alleys, sewers, sidewalks, and crossings, and for keeping them in repair, etc. Towns were to appoint street commissioners. They were to purchase, lay out, and establish cemeteries, to plant trees upon public ground, and along the streets of such town, and provide for their culture and preservation.

Beginning in 1855, towns had to levy and collect annual taxes, not to exceed 50 cents on the dollar valuation, and 25 cents poll tax. Another 30 cents on the dollar supported schools. Towns were mandated to complete school houses now in progress of erection, pay for them, keep them in repair, and to provide fuel and other necessaries. All necessary wharves and landings for steamboats and other vessels for those towns on the banks of any navigable stream or water course were to be constructed.

Also in 1855, the General Assembly took time to enact laws to prohibit profanity. Every person 18 or older "who shall profanely curse, swear, aver, or imprecate by, or in the name of God, Jesus Christ, or the Holy Ghost, shall be deemed guilty of profanity, and, on conviction, shall be fined not less than one nor more than three dollars for each offense."

Hoosiers must have been getting rowdy in that year, because persons interfering with trains in any manner were guilty of misdemeanor. No person "shall shoot a gun, pistol, or other weapon, or throw a stone, stick, clubs, or any other substance whatever at or against any locomotive, or car, or train of cars containing persons on any railroad in this State." The fine was not less than $10 nor more than $100, and imprisonment in the county jail not less than 10 days nor more than three months.

If any person was injured or wounded by such an act, the offender was deemed guilty of assault, with intent to commit murder, and could be imprisoned in State's Prison for not less than one nor more than four years. If death resulted, the guilty person was punished for murder in the first degree.

The 1855 General Assembly passed legislation for the protection of the Sabbath, and provided penalties for its desecration. Any person age 14 and over found rioting, hunting, fishing, quarreling, at common labor, or engaged in the usual vocations, works of charity and necessity only excepted, on the first day of the week known as Sunday was to be fined not less than one nor more than $10.

Exempt were those who observed the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath, travelers, families removing, keepers of toll-bridges and toll-gates, and ferrymen.

The state legislature of 1855 was concerned with everything. They paid one man $40 for cleaning the privies, and another $7 for furnishing glass and glazing on the State House.

They appropriated suitable sums for the State Prison, the State Library, the Institution for Education of Blind, a Hospital for the Insane, an Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb, and other benevolent institutions.

Even as today, the printing houses and any firm dealing with any kind of paper profited from the sessions. Since Indiana became a State in 1816, it took a lot of paper to make the state government work.

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Banding together

Granges gave farmers organized political clout

Ts FEB 10 1991

Clark, Dorothy

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

It was Oliver Hudson Kelley, an experienced farmer who had studied agricultural conditions for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, who realized that rural men and women needed an organization to help them become better farmers.

City people had theaters, concerts, clubs and fraternal orders, but these were out of the reach of many people in rural districts.

On Dec. 4, 1867, Kelley and six other men founded a secret society for people interested in agriculture. It was called the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry. State and local branches were known as Granges.

This name was taken from the French word meaning "house for storing grain, a granary or barn." Its members were called Grangers, and the purposes were social, fraternal and educational.

At a time when there were no telephones, automobiles, radios, rural free delivery of mail, and the miracle of television's instant communication, the Grange became a popular organization in rural America.

Indiana farmers were caught in the spreading discontent with economic conditions which mushroomed in the 1870s. Since they were largely dependent on markets far from home for their products, farmers wanted cheaper rail transportation.

Hoosier farmers complained about high taxes resulting from what they considered unfair assessments of their property. The idea of some form of association among farmers cooperating for the betterment of their lives appealed to them.

The first and oldest farm organization in Indiana, and the upper Midwest, came to this state in 1869 when the first Granges were established at Honey Creek in Vigo County, and at Indianapolis which was called the Capital Grange.

O.M. Curry of Honey Creek Township first heard of the Grange in 1869 from his brother, A.B. Curry of Chicago. He talked over the idea with his neighbor, John Weir, and they decided to invite O.H. Kelley, secretary of the national organization, to come here and organize the Honey Creek Grange.

John Weir traveled on horseback to alert all the neighbors and invite them to attend a meeting to petition for a charter. Honey Creek Grange No. 1 was organized with 29 charter members on Dec. 24, 1869, at the Curry School House.

Weir was elected worthy master; O.M. Curry, worthy overseer; Fred Cornell, secretary; and John Royce, lecturer. The next fall this growing group built its own meeting hall.

Weir served as the first master of Indiana State Grange which was organized at Terre Haute on March 1, 1872. Often called "Father of Old Number One," Curry served as gatekeeper of the state Grange for 23 years.

Although the Indiana organization moved slowly during the early years, with three Granges in 1870 and eight in 1871, there were 46 organized by 1872. Between October 1873 and March 1874, the number increased from 467 to 1,502.

This rapid increase was attributed to the Panic of 1873. By 1875, 2,000 Granges reported a total membership of 60,298. In the same year, the National Grange totaled one million members.

During the 1870s and 1880s, laws regulating railways and grain elevators were passed to help farmers. These were called "Granger Laws." The organization had proven political clout.

When many of the cooperative enterprises failed because of lack of business experience and managerial skills, people lost interest in the Grange, and the membership began to drop off. The number of Granges in Indiana had decreased by 515 in October 1875.

The Grange, however, had real value. It stopped almost all its political activities and opened its membership to include anyone interested in agriculture. In the smaller towns and rural areas of the western states its membership continued to grow.

A ritual book and a framed certificate of the local Grange were presented to the Historical Museum of the Wabash Valley by Elvira Curry Rigney, daughter of O.M. Curry.

Anyone having knowledge of any of the several Grange halls in the area are invited to contact this writer. It was an important part of local history and involved many ancestors of present-day residents of the Wabash Valley.

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A Clark, Dorothy (History)

Election banter from days past

TS NOV 01 1992

Col. Richard Wiggington Thompson (1809-1900) never grew tired of telling how he had seen all the presidents of the United States except two.

This was an unusual circumstance in those days, and still would be remarkable in this day and age.

He saw Jefferson in 1825. Jefferson was an old man then, and the colonel, who was born in 1809, ran half a mile to see him.

Jefferson lived at Monticello, where the colonel happened to be. Where the colonel lived was but a few miles from Madison's home. Monroe he saw frequently as he lived about as far from his home one way as Madison did the other, and he often passed his place.

John Q. Adams was remembered as one of the most remarkable men he ever saw. The colonel saw Jackson first in 1887 at a celebration in Nashville. He rode a superb horse. Next time he saw him was when his father took him to the White House to see President Jackson.

Van Buren was described as never standing still, like a horse that would slip the bridle. Then came Harrison, but he didn't live long enough to show what he could do. Then came Tyler who blasted the prospects of his party. According to Thompson, Tyler could out swear any man you ever met.

Polk was a hard-working man who killed himself with work. And, Taylor was not a great man at all, according to Thompson, but he was honest and as simple as a child.

Fillmore was an ordinary debater, but a sensitive man. Pierce was the most courteous gentleman Thompson ever knew, and possessed great ability. For clear reasoning, Buchanan had few superiors, but he was not a man of decision or courage and he was bulldozed.

Thompson could talk about Lincoln all day and not exhaust the subject. They agreed on almost everything and were often together. The others — Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, Cleveland and Harrison — were too modern for him to talk about much.

J.H. Beadle, writing for The Gazette, told how the "Tall Sycamore of the Wabash," as Honorable D.W. Voorhees was called, was unquestionably the most prominent of active politicians in Terre Haute, but he was still too young and active for him to write about.

The veteran politician of the city was Dick Thompson, who was a great man at three widely separated epochs. After being a very noted Whig congressman in the days of Jackson, Van Buren and Tyler, he was in retirement for years. He reappeared suddenly as a power during the Civil War, and again went into retirement only to emerge for the third and last time as President Hayes' secretary of the navy, facetiously called the "Ancient Mariner of the Wabash."

One of the most pleasing memories of Beadle's boyhood was seeing the colonel's refined and scholarly face in the courtroom and at political meetings and conventions.

The camapaign of 1844 was especially memorable. It began early in April, and the air was red hot by June 1, and never since, no, not even in the darkest days of the Civil War, have the fury and bitterness been excelled.

Beadle was about 5 years old at the time, but he could recall that time very well. This was the congressional campaign between Col. Thompson and "Joe" Wright. In the campaign in Parke County, the bitterness grew worse, and as the election grew closer, business was suspended.

During the two or three months the party papers were venomous to a degree that would not now be tolerated. Their columns were spattered all over with such phrases as "the God defying scoundrel who edits the Sentinel," "the infidel blasphemer who attacks Methodist preachers," etc. The Whig papers had no other title for Honorable Joseph A. Wright, afterward governor and United States minister to Prussia, than "Wily Joe."

During this hot, political fued, one Democratic paper had an ornamental border representing dead coons (Whigs) hanging in festoons by the tails and the common phrase of that side for Col. Thompson was "Oily Tongued Dick."

"What a set of scamps our fathers must have been if their papers tell the truth," said Beadle.

The political songs sung in those bygone days were recalled by Beadle. The Whigs were singing: "Get out of the way you Polk root pizen. You can't hurt Clay nor Frelinhuysen." This was considered a wonderful achievement in rhyme — as rhyme went in those days.

The last time Col. Thompson did active work in Parke County, it was made more lively by the strains of "Rally round the flag, boys, rally once again, Shouting the battle cry of Freedom."

The torchlight parades, barbecues, stump speaking, and long-winded oratory might just be more entertaining than present day television, eternal radio announcements, and general mud-slinging in the newspapers, and paper clutter left on porches. I do enjoy the emery boards, rulers, notebooks, notepads and other such items.

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star's women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column since 1956. She is Vigo County Historian.

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